

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

COME-00 /027 W

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R 200950Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3330

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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HONG KONG FOR RCMO-VERNON PETERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, CPRS, CB, SN

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA-PROPERTY LOSS CLAIM, SOUTHEAST ASIA AIR
TRANSPORT, INC. (SEAT).

REF: (A) HONG KONG 7522

(B) STATE 156198

1. MR. ROBERT M. FERGUSON, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA AIR
TRANSPORT, INC., VISITED EMBOFF ON AUGUST 15 TO CLARIFY HIS
COMPANY'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO SUBJECT CLAIM. HE SAID THAT
SEAT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PLANNING ANY LEGAL ACTION AGAINST USG.
CLAIM BY WROTEN, SEAT'S VICE PRESIDENT, WOULD BE MADE ON PURELY
PERSONAL BASIS, NOT AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY. HOWEVER,
FERGUSON SAID HE HOPES SEAT WILL BE ABLE TO FILE CLAIM AGAINST
FROZEN CAMBODIAN ASSETS WHEN PROCEDURE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED
BY USG.

2. FERGUSON SAID AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH DID NOT ASSIST IN OB-
TAINING FUEL FOR SEAT'S STRANDED AIRCRAFT BUT HELPED TO EXTENT
POSSIBLE IN GETTING FLIGHT CLEARANCES. HE STATED THAT SEAT DID
MAKE VERBAL REQUEST TO SOMEONE IN EMBASSY FOR HELP IN OBTAINING
FUEL, BUT THAT PERSON SUGGESTED THEY SUBMIT REQUEST THROUGH
NORMAL GKR CHANNELS. IF NOT SUCCESSFUL, SEAT WAS TOLD IT COULD
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RETURN FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. (THIS WAS FOUR OR FIVE DAYS

BEFORE FALL OF PHNOM PENH AND THINGS WERE VERY CHAOTIC IN GKR
MINISTRIES.) FERGUSON OPINED THAT EVEN IF SEAT WAS ABLE TO OB-
TAIN FUEL IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE FOR REMOVAL OF THE AIRCRAFT
SINCE CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS WERE GUARDING THE PLANES AND THE GKR
WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED THE AIRCRAFT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

3. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SEPARATE CON-
TACTS THAT MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN WROTEN AND PETERSON,
FERGUSON SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TESTIFY IN COURT TO
THE EFFECT THAT PETERSON WAS COOPERATIVE AND EMBASSY DID
EVERYTHING THAT IT COULD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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